

REMARKS

A typographical error noted in the specification after filing has been corrected.

In the Office Action dated March 28, 2005, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stocker. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the Stocker United Kingdom application does not qualify as prior art against the subject matter of the present application.

The Stocker United Kingdom application has an effective date for prior art purposes as of its publication date, which is May 19, 2004. The present application was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 24, 2004, and therefore the Stocker reference was published after the filing date of the present application, and does not qualify as prior art against the subject matter of the present claims.

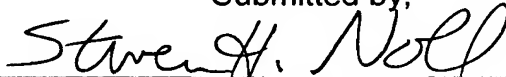
The Stocker United Kingdom application does not constitute prior art against the statute cited by the Examiner, 35 U.S.C. §102(b), nor does it qualify as prior art against the claims of the present application under any other sub-section of 35 U.S.C. §102.

The Stocker United Kingdom application was cited by the Applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 23, 2004, solely because it was among the references cited by the British Patent Office in connection with the counterpart British application, as noted in that Information Disclosure Statement. No characterization of the Stocker United Kingdom application as prior art was made by the Applicant, nor was any admission regarding that published application made by the Applicant.

In order to complete the record, Applicant notes that the Stocker United Kingdom application corresponds to co-pending United States Application Serial No. 10/631,597, filed July 31, 2003. That application is assigned to the same Assignee (Siemens Aktiengesellschaft) as the present application. That co-pending application is under examination in Group Art Unit 2859 as well, and therefore Applicant assumes the Examiner has access to that co-pending application, and Applicant therefore has not burdened the present file with a duplicate copy. If the Examiner nevertheless would prefer that a copy of this co-pending application be provided, the Examiner is requested to notify the undersigned counsel for the Applicant and a copy will be submitted.

In view of the inapplicability of the Stocker United Kingdom application as prior art against the claims of the present application, all claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Submitted by,



(Reg. 28,982)

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